

SAS

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 4 SPRING 1978
NEWSLETTER

SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ARCHAEOZOOLOGY

In 1976 the "International Council for Archaeozoology" (I.C.A.Z.) was founded, and members met for the first time in Nice during the IX International Conference of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences in September of that year. During this conference I.C.A.Z. was formally recognized by the "Union Internationale des Sciences Prehistoriques et Protohistoriques" as an "Association Affilie". The U.I.S.P.P. is a member of the UNESCO-recognized "Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines".

Actually, I.C.A.Z. is a new name for a working group that originated at Budapest in 1971 and met again in Groningen in 1974. At the present time I.C.A.Z. is trying to provide a more formal structure to reinforce the efforts of individual archaeozoologists. The reasons for this are to provide a platform for the strong professional unity that has grown up among those who work on the many facets of zoology in relation to archaeology. The previous attempts to form a group like this within the I.Q.U.A. were unsuccessful.

The aims of I.C.A.Z. are:

- a. to develop and stimulate archaeozoological research;
- b. to strengthen co-operation among archaeozoologists;
- c. to foster co-operation with archaeozoologists and other scientists working in the field of archaeology.

The regulations provide for the formation of working groups for special themes of common interest, and I.C.A.Z. recognizes corresponding members. Activities and projects that will have the attention of I.C.A.Z. in the near future are:

- a. Inquiry into the status of archaeozoological work in relation to archaeology and other fields of research.
- b. Organization of a data bank.
- c. Standardization of the minimum requirements for publications.
- d. Standardization of measurements.
- e. Standardization of methods.
- f. General rules for the nomenclature of domestic animals and their wild parent species.
- g. Publication of scientific works of general interest.
- h. Annual publication of a bibliography and a list of addresses and research projects of archaeozoologists.

Some of these projects can be undertaken by individuals. Examples include the bibliography that is regularly issued by Hans-Herman Muller, and the address list issued by Anneke Clason. Other projects should be the concern of working groups. A working group concerning the organization of a databank will be started by Hans-Peter Uerpmann; those interested in co-operating can write directly to him. Juliet Clutton-Brock will coordinate a group concerned with the nomenclature of domestic animals and their parent species. The Measuring Guide, prepared by Angela van den Driesch, will be an excellent base for the working group on standardization of measurements.

Suggestions for work on other themes are solicited, as well as for items of general interest that should be the concern of I.C.A.Z. These will be discussed during the "International Archaeozoological Conference" being organized by Prof. Dr. M. Kubasiewicz for 1978.

As a final note, Dr. J. Wheeler Pires de Ferreira reports that the Laboratorio de Paleozoologia in Lima (Peru) has been established for archaeozoological studies. The laboratory will specialize in research in subfossil faunal remains in South America, and a large reference collection is available. Facilities of the laboratory are open to both Peruvian and foreign scholars.

Submitted by Dr. A.T. Clason, Biologisch-Archaeologisch Institut, Groningen.

CENTER FOR MATERIALS RESEARCH IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded two grants totalling \$350,000 over three years to the Center for Materials Research in Archaeology and Ethnology (CMRAE), a new Center established by nine educational, research, and cultural institutions in the Boston area.

CMRAE is a major undertaking whose purpose is to encourage a new direction for research in anthropology, archaeology, art history, and related humanistic and social science disciplines by providing them with an expanded technical base in the sciences of organic and inorganic materials. The NEH grants—\$200,000 for the Center's education program and \$50,000 in 1977-78 toward a three-year planning grant of \$150,000 for development of research programs—will be supplemented by contributions from participating institutions, private foundations and individuals.

Participating institutions are Boston University, Brandeis University, Harvard University, the University of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Museum of Fine Arts of Boston, Robert S. Peabody Foundation for Archaeology, Tufts University, and Wellesley College. M.I.T. has agreed to serve as the Center's coordinating institution and as such will handle administrative matters for the Center.

Heather N. Lechtman is Center director in addition to maintaining her present responsibilities as associate professor of archaeology and ancient technology in the M.I.T. Departments of Humanities and of Materials Science and Engineering. Her background is in the fields of anthropology, archaeology, art history, physics, and the conservation of archaeological artifacts. ~~Joel Orlen, executive officer in the Office of the Provost at M.I.T., is assuming additional responsibilities as executive officer of the Center.~~ The director is the principal person responsible for developing the Center and its programs; the executive officer handles the administrative links with member institutions necessary for the conduct of Center business.

The research program of the Center will emphasize rigorous laboratory study of artifacts and other kinds of cultural remains in order to determine the nature and structure of the materials of which they are composed and the extraction and processing regimes they have undergone. The Center hopes to sustain a level of in-house research that will generate new insights into the ways in which societies have interacted with the material world and eventually to make its facilities and trained personnel available to scholars from non-Center institutions to assist them with their own investigations.

CMRAE has no intention, however, of providing a staff to handle purely service functions, since its members are convinced that research aimed at understanding the relations among materials, technology, and society will be advanced most effectively by scholars who have a grounding in both a science and a social science or a humanities discipline. In fact, a primary goal of the Center is the establishment of education and training programs to increase the number of those extremely rare scholars who are capable of formulating research problems on the basis of a dual competence in a humanistic or social science discipline and in a physical or biological science.

SAS NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 Number 4 Spring 1978

Published quarterly by the Society for Archaeological Sciences. Distributed to the members of the Society with membership, \$5.00 per year.

SAS

EDITOR: R. E. Taylor

ASSOCIATE EDITORS: S. P. De Atley, P. I. Vanderhoeven, Matthew Hall

Scholars from non-Center institutions and/or their graduate students with a base in the humanities and social sciences will be encouraged to join the Center's laboratories on a visiting basis to work on their own materials while becoming acquainted with the properties of those materials and with the specialized techniques of the relevant materials science disciplines.

The Center's research activities will be carried out in a network of shared laboratories—including a series of materials research laboratories and a data-processing facility—located at member institutions and used by students and faculty of those institutions as well as by visiting scholars and graduate students who will join the Center for shorter periods. The materials research laboratories are likely to include, among others, metallurgy, ceramics lithics, paleoethnobotany, and zoo-archaeology. Such laboratories already existing at member institutions will be expanded so that they can accommodate larger numbers of workers and research projects.

One of the primary tasks of the three-year planning period is to draw up a set of detailed plans for the sharing and staffing of existing laboratory facilities for research in archaeological, ethnographic, and art historical materials. Eventually, such shared facilities should enable both coordinated research projects to be carried out—research projects undertaken by a group of Center and visiting scholars—as well as the smaller projects of individual scholars.

Another of the most important activities of the planning grant period lies in the area of comparative collections. The permanent strength of the Center will rest not only with its personnel or facilities, but also in the quality and scope of materials gathered, prepared, and made available as standards for the analysis and identification of archaeological remains. For all classes of materials from metals to bones, modern comparative specimens prepared under controlled conditions and/or gathered from living populations form the backbone of analytical studies, backed up by "libraries" of previously analyzed archaeological and ethnological materials. Collections of the various materials already exist in the Bost area in one form or another but are generally maintained for nonarchaeological purposes by different university departments and museums. During the planning grant period, the Center will determine the value of these existing collections for archaeological purposes, and, in consultation with those in charge of the various collections, will suggest how they might best be used and supplemented by Center staff. In addition, each laboratory will have to establish or enlarge its own collections of comparative materials needed for everyday or specialized uses by those conducting research in that facility. Definition of the scope of such core collections as well as features of their organization, documentation, and storage will be worked out for each class of materials and a start made in assembling and preparing required items.

During its first three years of operation, CMRAE will organize a series of professional seminars the purpose of which will be to explore the most pressing problems in the general domain of materials research in anthropology, archaeology, art history, and related disciplines and to identify the creative routes by which the Center, as a coordinated unit of laboratories, can address and resolve those issues. The individual seminars will include specialists from among the leading scholars in their respective fields, representing Center and non-Center institutions. Although each seminar will address a different theme, all are expected to entertain the question of how a materials-laboratory orientation can stimulate and strengthen research in the fields that CMRAE primarily represents.

The Center's education program is based on a four-year cycle of inter-institutional courses at the graduate level covering the primary groups of materials encountered in archaeology—namely ceramics, stone, metal, and floral and faunal materials—and the issues that revolve around the documentation and interpretation of their cultural use. The cycle, begun in 1975, offers a graduate seminar in the fall followed by a laboratory course in the spring. Each year, both the seminar and the laboratory cover one class of materials and are designed and taught by groups of faculty from member institutions. Seminars are often enhanced by the participation of guest lecturers, specialists invited expressly for their research experience in the subject under study. Students from member institutions are eligible to enroll in any of these courses. CMRAE is not a degree-granting institution, however. Students participating in its courses receive credit at their home institutions.

Thus far, the laboratory classes have been held at the teaching facilities available to individual faculty members at their own institutions. The NEH education grant, awarded to support the Center's education program, will permit the establishment of a central Teaching Laboratory as the primary facility for such instruction. The Teaching Laboratory will accommodate all students in the program and will be used by all faculty teaching laboratory courses. Professor Lechtman is the director of the Teaching Laboratory which will open at M.I.T. in the fall of 1978.

Although CMRAE is composed of nine Boston-area institutions, the Center is conceived not as a local or regional effort, but rather as a locus of interests and facilities to further the objectives of a new field. It is intended that the Center be accessible to qualified scholars and graduate students on as wide a basis as possible, and that the organization of the Center evolve rapidly to reflect this potential national constituency.

A program committee will determine Center policies and programs. It is composed of one scholar from each of the Center's member institutions and, in addition, two nationally recognized scholars who have not yet been designated. These two members will represent scholars-at-large from relevant fields and will increase the number of disciplines represented on the committee. Members of the program committee are: James Wiseman, Boston University; George Cowgill, Brandeis University; C.C. Lamberg-Karlovsky, Harvard University; Lawrence Kaplan, University of Massachusetts, Boston; Arthur Steinberg, M.I.T.; Edward Sayre, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Richard MacNeish, Peabody Foundation for Archaeology; Alexander Kaczmarczyk, Tufts University; Philip Kohl, Wellesley College; and on an ex-officio basis, Heather Lechtman and Joel Orlen.

The Center will conduct its business under the direction of an administrative committee composed of one senior administrative officer from each member institution. Members of the administrative committee are: James Wiseman, chairman, Department of Classical Studies, Boston University; Robert Art, dean of Graduate School, Brandeis University; Richard Leahy, associate dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University; Claire van Ummerson, associate vice chancellor, University of Massachusetts, Boston; Walter A. Rosenblith, provost, M.I.T.; Robert Casselman, associate director, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Richard MacNeish, director, Peabody Foundation for Archaeology; George Mumford, dean, College of Liberal Arts, Tufts University; Elizabeth Rock, director, Science Center, Wellesley College; and on an ex-officio basis, Heather Lechtman, director of the Center, and Joel Orlen, executive officer of the Center.

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